

From: Henrietta Stern
Sent: Friday, October 10, 2003 11:49 AM
To: Dabbs, Paul
Cc: Henrietta Stern; Fran Farina; Darby Fuerst
Subject: COMMENTS ON CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE

Hello Paul--

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on the California Water Plan Update for 2003. The following comments are on Volume 1, Chapter 4, Central Coast Hydrogeologic Area

General:

The chapter does not include any information about the extensive activities of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD). I have provided some suggested text and information sources below.

We recognize that the Salinas Basin is the largest basin within the region, and that you have a larger statewide perspective, but please note that the Salinas situation is not representative of all of the Central Coast. For example, MPWMD is proud that we do not have seawater intrusion in the Seaside Groundwater Basin within our District (immediately adjacent to the Salinas Basin) due in great part to our rigorous monitoring and management practices to limit production to within the safe yield of the Seaside Basin. Similar management occurs in the Carmel River Basin.

Page 1, Setting. Line 3 "it's" should be "its"

Pages 4-5, "Looking to the Future" section.

In the sidebar on "Ongoing Planning Efforts", please consider adding:

"Carmel River Watershed Council"

"Carmel River Management Plan"

"Seaside Basin Groundwater Management Plan"

The first paragraph on lower per capita water use accurately describes the situation within the MPWMD. It also I am not sure if that is the case in the Salinas Valley or other areas, where very large irrigated vineyards have replaced dry farming and ranchland.

In paragraph 3, you provide examples of agency water augmentation actions. You may wish to add a sentence that says something like:

"The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District has carried out a multi-year aquifer storage and recovery test program, where excess winter flow from the Carmel River is treated and injected into the Seaside Basin for recovery in dry periods. MPWMD has funded several hydrogeologic studies of the Seaside Basin, and is in the early phases of developing a Seaside Basin Groundwater Management Plan. MPWMD is also pursuing a desalination project in the Sand City area. "

*** You may be interested in the following:

The Carmel River Basin, though small compared to other watersheds, is of state and national interest because it supports a key run of steelhead, a federally listed threatened species. The river also comprises about 75% of the supply for the Monterey Peninsula. The MPWMD carries out an extensive Mitigation Program to offset the environmental impacts of diversions of Carmel River water to meet community needs. Activities include steelhead rescues from the drying river, fish rearing and release, riparian (streamside) habitat restoration and river bank protection. MPWMD works cooperatively with entities such as the Carmel River Steelhead Association and the Carmel River Watershed Council.

For more information about MPWMD, please visit www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us

Please call me at _____ or e-mail at _____ if you have questions.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.